

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AF-06 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAB-01 DHA-02 ACDA-10

/128 W

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R 022237Z APR 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6662

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA CITY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 1366

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UN PN PQ AO US CU

SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN STATEMENT ON ANGOLA IN SECURITY COUNCIL,  
MARCH 31

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT BY PANAMANIAN PERMREP BOYD  
(NEWLY NAMED FOREIGN MINISTER) DURING UN SECURITY COUNCIL  
DEBATE ON ANGOLA MARCH 31 IN WHICH HE TOUCHES UPON SUCH SUBJECTS  
AS US ATTITUDE TOWARDS MPLA AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN GENERAL,  
CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AND ELSEWHERE, US ULTIMATUM TO CUBA,  
AND PANAMA CANAL QUESTION: QUOTE

MR BOYD(PANAMA) (INTEPRETATION FROM SPANISH): ON BEHALF  
OF THE DELEGATION OF PANAMA I HAVE THE HONOUR TO EXTEND A  
CORDIAN WELCOME TO AMBASSADOR PASCAL LUVUALU, REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, WHO IS HONOURING US WITH  
HIS PRESENCE. I HOPE THAT PANAMA WILL SOON JOIN THOSE COUN-  
TRIES OF LATIN AMERICA --BRAZIL, CUBA, GUYANA, JAMAICA, MEXICO AND  
PERU -WHICH HAVE ALREADY RECOGNIZED THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC  
OF ANGOLA AS A FREE, INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN COUNTRY.  
WE HOPE TOO THAT WE SHALL SOON SEE THE  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA OCCUPYING THE SEAT RESERVED  
FOR IT AS A FULL-FLEDGED MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS,  
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THEREBY BRINGING TO AN END THE HISTORIC EPISODE WHICH

IS OPENING UP NEW HORIZONS OF PROGRESS AND WELL-BEING FOR THAT GREAT PEOPLE OF AFRICA..

DURING THE MEETINGS HELD BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN AFRICA IN FEBRUARY 1972, I HAD THE HONOUR TO SAY THE FOLLOWING:

"...MY DELEGATION WISHES TO STATE THAT IT WILL VOTE IN FAVOUR OF (THE DRAFT RESOLUTION IN DOCUEMTN S/10607/REV.1) SINCE THE TEXT IS DESIGNED

TO LED SUPPORT TO THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES IN AFRICA. PANAMA STATES DECISIVELY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT IT SYMPATHIZES WITH THE PATRIOTS THAT ARE FIGHTING FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES OF ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE AND GUINEA (BISSAU). PORTUGAL'S POLICY CONCERNING THE COLONIAL TERRITORIES THAT IT CONTROLS IS NOT SHARED BY MY GOVERNMENT, WHICH ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS HAS EXPRESSED ITSELF IN FAVOUR OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND FREEDOM FOR THESE PEOPLE".

(1639TH MEETING, P. 72)

I SHALL NOW REFER TO THE ITEM ON OUR AGENDA, THE QUESTION OF THE AGGRESSION COMMITTED BY SOUTH AFRICA AGAINST THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, AND TO THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY PANAMA TO THE WISHES EXPRESSED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY THAT WE SHOULD FORMULATE A CONSTRUCTIVE DRAFT RESOLUTION THAT COULD BE UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED. PANAMA, I ASSOCIATION WITH THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, HAS HAD CIRCULATED THE DRAFT RESOLUTION CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT S/12030, THE OPERATIVE PART OF WHICH WOULD UNEQUIVOCALLY, FIRST, CONDEMN SOUTH AFRICA'S AGGRESSION AGAINST THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA; SECONDLY, DEMAND THAT SOUTH AFRICA RESPECT THE INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ANGOLA; THIRDLY, DEMAND THAT SOUTH AFRICA DESIST FROM THE UTILIZATION OF THE TERRITORY ON NAMIBIA TO MOUNT ANY KIND OF NEW AGGRESSION AGAINST ANGOLA; AND FOURTHLY, CALL UPON SOUTH AFRICA TO PAY COMPENSATION FOR THE DAMAGE INFLICTED ON ANGOLA THROUGH THE AGGRESSION THAT WAS COMMITTED.

IT IS NO ACCIDENT THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS MET TWICE DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH TO EXAMINE ACTS OF AGGRESSION COMMITTED AGAINST MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA, INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES THAT HAVE BEEN ATTACKED BY THE RACIST AND MINORITY REGIMES OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, DESIRING AT ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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COST TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD. SOUTH AFRICA INTERVENED IN ANGOLA WITH THE DELIBERATE PURPOSE OF EXTENDING THE PERNICIOUS POLICY OF APARTHEID TO A REGION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA WHERE IT HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO SUCCEED, OWING TO THE GREAT NATIONALIST FORCES OPPOSING IT. THE SALISBURY AND PRETORIA REGIMES HAVE IN RECENT DAYS BEEN GIVEN VERY CLEAR LESSONS THAT THE TIME IS DRAWING NEAR WHEN THE POLICY OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION TO WHICH

IT IS CLINGING WILL DISAPPEAR ONCE AND FOR ALL.  
DESPITE THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS WITHDRAWN ITS FORCES FROM ANGOLA, WE WISH TO PLACE IT ON RECORD THAT IN OUR VIEW THE PRETEXT THAT IT WAS THERE TO PROTECT THE CALUEQUE DAM ON THE CUNENE RIVER GIVES NO JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ACT OF AGGRESSION. IN MY DELEGATION'S VIEW, THE PROBLEM RELATING TO THE BENEFITS THAT MAY BE DERIVED FROM THAT DAM IS A QUESTION WHICH, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, WILL HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN ANGOLA AND NAMIBIA, ONCE THE LATTER HAS BEEN FREED FROM THE SOUTH AFRICA YOKE.  
THAT IS WHY IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL EXPRESSLY TO DEMAND THAT SOUTH AFRICA WITHDRAW NOT ONLY FROM ANGOLA BUT ALSO FROM NAMIBIA, SOT THAT NAMIBIA MAY EXERCISE ITS RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE. THE DEFEAT SUFFERED BY THE COLONIALISTS WITH THE INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA SERVES AS ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE OPPRESSED PEOPLES STILL STRUGGLING TO ENSURE RESPECT FOR THEIR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.  
EVEN THOUGH OUR FRIENDS FROM AFRICA HAVE ASKED US NOT TO DEPART FROM THE SPECIFIC ITEM UNDER DISCUSSION--THAT IS, THE QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S AGGRESSION AGAINST ANGOLA--WE HAVE SEEN THAT CHINA, CUBA, THE SOVIET UNION NIGERIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE GIVEN THEIR VIEWS ON THE GENERAL SITUATION IN ANGOLA. HENCE, THE DELEGATION OF PANAMA, WITHOUT GOING INTO A THOROUGH HISTORICAL REVIEW, WISHES TO EXPRESS SOME OPINIONS THAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE OF INTEREST TO ITS COUNTRY AND LATIN AMERICA.  
AS 11 NOVEMBER 1975--THE DATE DECIDED UPON BY PORTUGAL FOR ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE--DREW NEAR, THE ANGOLAN LIBERATION WAR TURNED INTO A CONFLICT OF INTERNATIONAL PROPORTIONS: THE UNITED STATES ACCUSED THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA OF INTERVENING, AND, IN A SIMPLE MANNER, WESTERN PROPAGANDA MADE CLEAR TO US THAT THE STRUGGLE WAS REALLY BETWEEN COMMUNISM AND ANTI-COMMUNIST  
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FORCES. NEVERTHELESS THE UNITED STATES, SINCE DECEMBER 1975, HAS HAD DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MOZAMBIQUE AND GUINEA-BISSAU, THE TWO OTHER PORTUGUESE EX-COLONIES, WHOSE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS FOLLOW A SOCIALIST POLICY ANALOGOUS TO THAT OF THE POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA (MPLA).  
THE TRUTH IS THAT FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OF THOSE PEOPLES IN THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES RECEIVED ASSISTANCE: FOR THE MOST PART THIS WAS FROM THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, WITH LITTLE OR NONE FROM THE UNITED STATES.  
ON 6 NOVEMBER 1975, IN THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE, THE FACT EMERGED THAT THROUGH THE CIA THAT COUNTRY HAD GIVEN \$25 MILLION IN WEAPONS TO ANGOLA, AND THAT IT INTENDED TO CONTRIBUTE \$25 MILLION MORE TO OTHER FACTIONS VYING FOR POWER WITH THE MPLA. BY THAT TIME SOUTH AFRICA FORCES WERE ALREADY WELL WITHIN ANGOLAN TERRITORY, WHERE

THEY WERE OPERATING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THOSE ANTI-MPLA  
FACTIONS. IT IS A FACT WELL KNOWN TO AL THAT, ALTHOUGH TO  
A LESSER EXTENT, THERE WERE ALSO CHINESE INSTRUCTORS,  
BRITISH MERCENARIES AND VOLUNTEERS OF AFRICAN AND OTHER  
NATIONALISTIES OPERATING IN ANGOLA AT THAT TIME.  
UNITED STATES PUBLIC OPINION AND THE CONGRESS WERE OPPOSED  
TO THE UNITED STATES EMBARKING ON AN ANTI-COMMUNIST CRUSADE IN  
ANGOLA THAT COULD HAVE TURNED OUT TO BE MORE COSTLY THAN  
THAT IN VIET-NAM.

THE MPLA HAS TRIUMPHED THANKS TO THE SACRIFICE OF ITS MARTYRS AND THE  
EFFORTS OF ITS MANY FOLLOWERS, AS WELL AS THE TIMELY ASSISTANCE  
GIVEN TO IT BY THE SOVIET UNION AND THE INTERNATIONALIST  
FIGHTERS FROM CUBA.

ANGOLA HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AS A MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICA UNITY, AND APPARENTLY THE QUARRELS AROUSED BY THE  
WAR OF INDEPENDENCE AMONG AFRICAN  
COUNTRIES HAS NOW BEEN FORGOTTEN.

THE UNITY OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT AGAINST RACISM,  
COLONIALISM AND APARTHEID IS SOUND, AND IS GREATER THAN ANY  
DIFFERENCES OF POLITICAL IDEOLOGY OR PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT.

ALL WARS AND REVOLUTIONS THAT TAKE PLACE IN OUR DAY  
HAVE REPERCUSSIONS THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD. THE ANGOLAN LIBERATION

STRUGGLE, ACCORDING TO THE SOVIETS, IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH DETENTE  
IN THE WORLD. FOR HIS PART, PRESIDENT FORD HAS BEEN SO  
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DISAPPOINTED THAT HE HAS ASKED HIS FOLLOWERS NOT TO USE  
THE WORD "DETENTE" ANY MORE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FOREIGN POLICY  
PURSUED BY HIS COUNTRY VIS-A-VIS THE OTHER SUPER-POWER.

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PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAB-01 DHA-02 ACDA-10

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6663

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SINCE THE SOVIET-CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, THE UNITED STATES FEARS THAT THOSE FORCES MAY INTERVENE IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION (SWAPO) HAS STATED TO THE TIMES OF LONDON THAT, SINCE "THE CUBANS ARE READY TO ASSIST US IN OUR STRUGGLE TO LIBERATE NAMIBIA", THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF SWAPO WILL DECIDE IN DUE COURSE WHETHER OR NOT IT WILL INVITE THE CUBAN FORCES IN ANGOLA TO JOIN THEM IN THE ARMES STRUGGLE IN NAMIBIA. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT: "THE CUBANS ARE ALREADY CO-OPERATING, WITH ASSISTANCE, TRAINING AND OTHER TYPES OF AID."

IN RECENT DAYS, SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER HAS UNLEASHED A CAMPAIGN TO WARN CUBA AND THE SOVIET UNION THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT ACCEPT FUTURE MILITARY INTERVENTIONS BY THOSE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN AFRICA. EVEN THOUGH SPOKESMEN FROM THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES RELUCTANT TO ALLOW THEIR COUNTRY TO MOVE TOWARDS A CONFRONTATION WITH CUBA OVER POSSIBLE CUBAN INTERVENTION IN RHODESIA, MR. KISSINGER HAS INSISTED, WITH RATHER BELLIGERENT THREATS.

THE TRUTH IS THAT BECAUSE OF THE FORTHCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES, TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER OF THIS YEAR, THE MATTER OF THE FAMOUS DETENTE HAS NOW BECOME UNCLASSIFIED

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ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS IN THE POLITICAL DEBATE, AND THE OFFICIALS OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION HAVE BEEN MAKING EVERY TYPE OF RHETORICAL EFFORT TO SHOW THAT THE AGREEMENTS RECENTLY CONCLUDED IN MOSCOW AND HELSINKI TO ALLEVIATE TENSIONS AND IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN NO WAY MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES IS WILLING TO CAPITULATE TO THE SOVIET UNION. IT MAY BE THAT, AFTER THE RESOUNDING TRIUMPH IN ANGOLA, THE CUBAN FIGHTERS FEEL LIKE THE LEADERS OF THE TROOPS WHICH THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES MIGHT SEND TO ANY PART OF THE THIRD WORLD WHERE INJUSTICES EXIST AND WHERE THEIR ASSISTANCE IS REQUESTED. BUT IT WOULD BE WELL TO CLARIFY THAT, IN OUR CASE, THE PROCESS

OF NATIONAL LIBERATION IN PANAMA FOLLOWS A COURSE DIFFERENT FROM THE AFRICAN ONE. AS WAS SAID BY GENERAL TORRIJOS, "WE HAVE OUR OWN BRAND OF ASPIRIN FOR OUR PAINS." THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA RESPECT THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE, AS ENSHRINED IN ARTICLE 18 OF THE CHARTER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, AS AMENDED BY THE PROTOCOL OF BUENOS AIRES IN 1967, WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

"NO STATE OR GROUP OF STATES HAS THE RIGHT TO INTERVENE, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, FOR ANY REASON WHATEVER, IN THE INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANY OTHER STATE. THE FOREGOING PRINCIPLE PROHIBITS NOT ONLY ARMED FORCE BUT ALSO ANY OTHER FORM OF INTERFERENCE OR ATTEMPTED THREAT AGAINST THE PERSONALITY OF THE STATE OR AGAINST ITS POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL ELEMENTS."

WE BELIEVE THAT THE PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA, CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA ON THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF HIS GOVERNMENT, FAITHFULLY INTERPRETED THE FEELING OF THE MAJORITY IN THIS CONTINENT WHEN HE SAID:

"I MUST AFFIRM ONCE AGAIN OUR ABSOLUTE AND CATEGORICAL OPPOSITION TO INTERVENTION ON THE PART OF ANY COUNTRY OF THIS HEMISPHERE, NOT ONLY IN INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF THE AREA BUT IN EXTRACONTINENTAL DISPUTES AS WELL. EVERY COUNTRY, IN AFRICA, ASIA, AMERICA, EUROPE OR ANY OTHER PART OF THE WORLD HAS THE RIGHT TO MAKE ITS OWN INTERNAL DECISIONS IN A CLEAR, AUTONOMOUS MANNER, WITHOUT ANY KIND OF INTERFERENCE."

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THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA HAS TAKEN DUE NOTE OF ALL THAT HAS BEEN SAID BY THE MASS MEDIA WHICH SPECULATE ON THE IDEA THAT, AFTER ANGOLA, CUBA MIGHT INTERVENE IN PANAMANIAN AFFAIRS. LAST SUNDAY, SENATOR DICK CLARK--DEMOCRATIC FROM THE STATE OF IOWA AND MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE --WHEN INTERVIEWED AND SPECULATING ON FUTURE SOVIET-SUBAN INTERVENTIONS AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE UNITED STATES WOULD TOLERATE SUCH INTERVENTIONS, SAID IN A REPLY:

"I THINK THAT YOU CAN DRAW THE LINE AT ANOTHER LEVEL AT WHICH WE COULD BE SUCCESSFUL; AND I THINK THAT IN THE CASE OF NAMIBIA OR RHODESIA, WHICH IS NOW BEFORE US, WE COULD NOT BE SUCCESSFUL.

"I WOULD SAY, FOR INSTANCE, THAT IF CUBAN TROOPS ARE TAKEN IN SOVIET AIRCRAFT SOME PLACE IN THIS HEMISPHERE THEN CERTAINLY, IN MY VIEW, WE SHOULD TAKE SOME ACTION AGAINST THEM, ASSUMING THAT SOME INJUSTICE IS BEING PERPETRATED ON THE BASIS OF HOW WE VIEW THE SITUATION."

LAST WEEK THE UNITED STATES CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATED IN A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL TO REVIEW "POSSIBLE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN CONCERNING

CUBA." THE NEW YORK TIMES, IN AN EDITORIAL, REMARKED THAT IF THE UNITED STATES WERE WILLING TO IMPOSE A BLOCKADE OF THE ISLAND IT WOULD NOT FIND SUPPORT FOR DOING SO IN MANY LATIN AMERICA COUNTRIES. THAT EDITORIAL CONCLUDED BY STATING: "IF FIDEL CASTRO HAS STATED ONCE AGAIN TO EXPORT HIS REVOLUTION IN THE HEMISPHERE, AS RECENTLY HINTED BY A SPOKESMAN OF THE ADMINISTRATION, THIS WOULD BE A REASON FOR CONCERN BY ALL AMERICAN STATES, SINCE THIS MATTER IS ENVISAGED IN THE TREATY OF RIO DE JANEIRO. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES IN CERTAIN PLACES FOR THE CUBAN REGIME TO EXPLOIT THE DISQUIET AND THE POVERTY IN SOME CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, EVEN THOUGH A MORE ACTIVE POLICY BY THE UNITED STATES IN THIS AREA COULD DIMINISH MR. CASTRO'S PROSPECTS." SOME PUBLICITY MEDIA IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE STATED: "THE CLEAR PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED BY SOVIET-CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA PAVES THE WAY TO SIMILAR VENTURES IN THE CARIBBEAN, GOING FROM PUERTO RICO TO PANAMA AND VENEZUELA." I DECLARE THAT PANAMA, IN ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, WILL ALWAYS REFRAIN FROM RESORTING TO THE THREAT OR THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OR THE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE OF ANY STATE AND THAT , CONSEQUENTLY, IT WILL NEVER ACCEPT IN-

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TERVENTION BY THE UNITED STATES, CUBA OR ANY OTHER STATE IN THOSE MATTERS WHICH FALL WITHIN THE INTERNAL JURISDICTION OF THE PANAMANIANS. IN THE UNITED NATIONS, IN ADDITION TO THE COUNTRIES WHICH COMPRISE THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP, THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD AND OTHERS SUPPORT THE PANAMANIAN CAUSE, WHICH DEMANDS RECOGNITION BY THE UNITED STATES OF THE EFFECTIVE SOVEREIGNTY OF MY COUNTRY OVER ITS TERRITORY, INCLUDING THE SO-CALLED PANAMA CANAL ZONE. THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND IS HAPPENING IN AFRICA IS THAT THE COLONIALIST POWERS HAVE, IN A SELFISH MANNER, FOR SUCH A LONG TIME DENIED THE BASIC RIGHTS OF THE MAJORITIES THAT THE OPPRESSED PEOPLES, IN THEIR DESPAIR OR IMPOTENCE, HAVE BEEN COMPELLED TO ACCEPT ANY TYPE OF ASSISTANCE--COMING FROM HEAVEN OR FROM OTHER COUNTRIES--FOR THE PURPOSE OF ATTAINING THEIR GOAL, WHICH IS FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND THE RIGHT TO BE MASTERS OF THEIR OWN DESTINIES. PANAMA HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH THE UNITED STATES FOR MORE THAN 11 YEARS A TREATY TO PUT AN END TO THAT COLONIAL ENCLAVE KNOWN AS THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE, WHICH DIVIDES OUR TERRITORY IN TWO AND WHICH CONSTITUTES A COLONIAL SITUATION THAT IS CONTRARY TO THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER. AT PRESENT, THE MOST DIFFICULT QUESTION WHICH REMAINS TO BE RESOLVED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS IS THE TIME PERIOD WHICH WOULD ALLOW NORTH AMERICAN TROOPS TO CONTINUE OCCUPYING MY COUNTRY'S SOIL. PANAMA WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME, NOT TO EXTEND BEYOND THE YEAR 2000.

WITH REGARD TO THIS PARTICULAR QUESTION, THE CONGRESS,  
THE PENTAGON AND THE PRESENT UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION HAVE  
NOT BEEN ABLE TO COME FORWARD WITH A PROPOSAL ACCEPTABLE TO  
MY COUNTRY.

THE SOLUTION TO THE PANAMA CANAL PROBLEM IS TODAY THE MOST SERIOUS  
AND INFLAMMATORY POINT OF CONFLICT THAT THE UNITED STATES  
HAS IN LATIN AMERICA. THE WISE THING WOULD BE TO FIND AN  
EARLY SOLUTION TO IT AND NOT TO SPECULATE HERE ABOUT WHAT  
COULD HAPPEN IN MY COUNTRY IF THAT ARRANGEMENT WAS NOT ACHIEVED  
IN A SATISFACTORY MANNER.

IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT FORGET THE  
LESSON WHICH IT HAS HAD IN ANGOLA, WHICH, DESPITE ALL THE  
COLONIALIST FORCES OPPOSED TO IT, HAS ACHIEVED ITS COM-  
PLETE LIBERATION.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERVENTION, SPEAKERS, LIBERATION FRONTS, INTERNATIONAL CANALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 8  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** oatisao  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by oatisao>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PANAMANIAN STATEMENT ON ANGOLA IN SECURITY COUNCIL, MARCH 31  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PN, PQ, AO, US, CU, UN, (BOYD)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006